

I strongly oppose the transfer of 17.4 acres of state-owned open space in the Tylerville section of Haddam to private developers in exchange for 87 acres of wooded, rocky land abutting Cockaponset State Forest. This sets a dangerous precedent and makes all State of CT owned open space vulnerable to developers.

The 17.4 acres were purchased by the State of CT with the intention that it remain open space. The deed reads in part, "hereinafter described premises, being located on the Connecticut River, a prime natural feature of the Connecticut landscape, has high priority recreation, fishery, and conservation value, and is consistent with the state comprehensive plan for outdoor recreation and the state plan of conservation and development and should be retained in its natural scenic or open condition as park or public open space."

The developers who are advocating this transfer have made false statements about the history of the property and the intent of its previous owners that they have had to retract. We have no assurances of what they would do with the property, and little reason to believe that their use of it would be environmentally appropriate.

Sincerely yours,

John C. Hall